

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 547
By DeBerry L

A RESOLUTION to honor and recognize the graduating members
of the University of Tennessee College of Law's
Black Law Student Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to pay tribute to those students who, through their natural talents and unflagging commitment to academic excellence, have distinguished themselves in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2003 graduating class of the University of Tennessee College of Law are such exceptional students; furthermore, sixteen of these remarkable scholars have been active in the school's Black Law Student Association, even while fulfilling the rigorous requirements of the Juris Doctorate curriculum; and

WHEREAS, throughout the school's 110-year history, the faculty of the University of Tennessee College of Law has sought to train competent and ethical attorneys through the development of skills, the nurture of intellect, and the molding of character; and

WHEREAS, to this end, the College of Law sponsors such estimable student organizations as the Black Law Student Association; as part of the 2003 Southern Chapter of the Year, members of the University of Tennessee College of Law Black Law Student Association have marched in support of racial equality issues, sponsored and coordinated the Junior Barristers program at Austin East High School, and raised funds for scholarships for

minority students, following the lead of their advisor, Professor Dwight Aarons, and student officers, Isaac Conner, President, Winston Williams, Vice President, Jacquelyn Wilson, Secretary, and Evelyn Njuguna, Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, at the 2003 Julian Blackshear Banquet, those third-year students who are members of the Black Law Student Association will be recognized for their numerous individual and collective accomplishments, not the least of which is their graduation from law school; and

WHEREAS, Al Bright, Jr., the son of Ruby and Al Bright, Sr., is a University of Memphis graduate, who has served as the Executive Editor of *Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law*; and

WHEREAS, currently serving as President of the Black Law Student Association, Isaac T. Conner has previously served as the organization's Vice President and as a Member of the American Trial Lawyer's Association trial team; a Ray Jenkins Finalist and the recipient of the International Trial Association's Student Advocate Award, Mr. Conner is the son of Bernice and Clarence Conner; and

WHEREAS, a native of Montrose, Alabama, Doricia Coretta Crawford graduated from Auburn University; the daughter of Essex and Patricia Crawford, she has served as a Member of the Thurgood Marshall Trial Team, as the Black Law Student Association Third-Year Representative, as a Member of the Moot Court Board, and as Chairperson of the Mardi Gras Ball; and

WHEREAS, Brooke Imani Dozier, the daughter of Deborah Allen Dozier and H. Richard Dozier, is a Vanderbilt University graduate who has served as a Member of the National Moot Court Team, as an Ella Baker Trainer, and as a Teaching Assistant; she is also very active in her faith community, Freedom Fellowship Christian Church; and

WHEREAS, a native of Knoxville, Christina Loree Elliott is the daughter of Dr. Nina and Rev. Keith Elliott; a graduate of the Georgia Institute of Technology, she has served as the Student Material Editor of the *Tennessee Law Review*, as Vice Chair of the Moot Court Board, as the Second-Year Representative of the Black Law Student Association, as Treasurer of the

Tennessee Association of Public Interest Law, as the Coach of the Austin East High School Mock Trial Team, as a Member of the National Trial Team, and as a Member of the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Team; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of Donna and Eugene Grayer, Eugenia Grayer is a Nashville native and a graduate of Tennessee State University who has served as Co-Chair of the Student Retention Committee and as a Member of the Student Bar Association; and

WHEREAS, already published in the field of Business Law and the recipient of the National Association of Women Lawyers' Award, Kimberly Michelle Jones has served as a Student Advisor, as the Third-Year Representative of Law Women, and as a Member of the Student Bar Association; the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John W. Jones, she is a graduate of Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, Shalonda L. Jones, the daughter of Shelia Bobo and Vernell Jones, is a University of Memphis graduate and Pro Bono Award Recipient, who has served as the Student Materials Editor of the *Tennessee Law Review*, as a Student Advisor, as a Member of the Student Bar Association, as a Member of the Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial Team, and as a Member of the Moot Court Board; and

WHEREAS, a native of Nairobi, Kenya, Evelyn W. Njuguna is the daughter of Monica and Joseph Njuguna Njenga; currently the Treasurer of the Black Law Student Association, she has also served as Research Editor of the *Tennessee Law Review*, as the Coordinator of the University of Tennessee Pro Bono Homeless Project, and as the Secretary of the Tennessee Association of Public Interest Law; and

WHEREAS, the daughter of the Rev. Josephine R. Bryson and Charles E. Stewart and the proud mother of Jasmine, Robin Carol Ray is a University of Memphis graduate, who has served as the Second-Year Representative and Secretary of the Student Bar Association, as the Secretary of the Black Law Student Association, as a participant in the University of Tennessee Pro Bono Family Justice Project, and as a Member of the Thurgood Marshall Trial Team, the Moot Court Board, and the Committee on the Community; and

WHEREAS, Celeste Lee Simmons, the daughter of Lisa and Rev. Johnny Turner, is a University of Memphis graduate who has served as the President of the Tennessee Association for Public Interest Law, the Parliamentarian for the Black Law Student Association, the Treasurer of the Moot Court Board, the Coach of the Austin East High School Mock Trial Team, and as a Member of the Admissions Committee, the Hooding Committee, the Dean's Advisory Council, the Frederick Douglass Moot Court Team, and the American Trial Lawyers Association Team; and

WHEREAS, a native of Bonneau, South Carolina, Shelton D. Starks graduated from Livingstone College; the son of Amanda S. Davidson, he has served as President of the Black Law Student Association, as a Member of the Executive Board of the Black Law Student Association, as the Vice President of the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association, as the Legal Counsel for the Black Student Alliance, and as a Member of the Student Bar Association and the Sports and Entertainment Society; and

WHEREAS, the son of Thomasina and James Vaughn, Jr., the husband of Liza Vaughn, and the proud father of Sydni Vaughn, Carvin Vaughn is a native of Jackson, Tennessee; a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, he has served as Historian of the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association and as the Synopsis Editor of the *Tennessee Business Law Journal*; and

WHEREAS, Marcus Jermaine Watson, the son of Louise and Willie Watson, is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, and a graduate of Elon University; also pursuing his Master of Business Administration degree, he has served as a Senior Board Member of *Transactions: The Tennessee Journal of Business Law*, in which periodical his work has been published, and as a Member of the National Black Master of Business Administration Association; and

WHEREAS, a native of Trezevant, Joseph La'Shaun Williams is the son of Margaret and Joe H. Williams; a University of Memphis graduate, he has served as a Member of the Criminal Law Society and the Law and Medicine Society and qualified for the Thurgood Marshall Trial Team; and

WHEREAS, currently serving as the Secretary of the Black Law Student Association, Jacquelyn DeShawn Wilson has previously served as the organization's First-Year Representative and as the Coordinator of the Julian Blackshear Scholarship Banquet and continues to serve as a Member of the Black Graduate and Professional Student Association; the daughter of Brenda Smith Wilson and Rev. Jack Wilson, Jr., she is a graduate of Mississippi State University; and

WHEREAS, through diligent study, steady composure during examinations, and steadfast commitment of time and talent, these students have achieved outstanding academic success and have joined the ranks of the best and brightest students in Tennessee and in our country; their display of intellectual aptitude and ambition surely bodes well for their future success; and

WHEREAS, these students' noteworthy achievement is a tremendous source of pride for their families, their school, and their communities; and

WHEREAS, the dedication to excellence of the sixteen graduating members of the University of Tennessee's Black Law Student Association is clearly deserving of the respect, admiration, and commendation of this legislative body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby commend and honor the graduating members of the University of Tennessee College of Law's Black Law Student Association on their impressive academic achievements, extending to them our best wishes for a happy, successful future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.